

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/501,540

Examiner

Gregory J. Vaughn

Applicant(s)

HITCHOCK ET AL.

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed 5/31/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT, or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. This action is responsive to the applicant's request for reconsideration, filed on 5/31/2006.
2. Applicant previously canceled claims 1-27.
3. Claims 28-38 are pending in the case. Claim 28 is an independent claim.
4. The rejection of claims 28-38 made under 35 USC § 103 as recited in the previous office action (dated 1/27/2006) is withdrawn in view of applicant's remarks.
5. The following is an examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 28, the prior art of record (including Wang et al., US Patent 5,490,217 and Tammaro, US Patent Publication 2001/0011246) neither anticipates, nor suggests to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, the claimed feature of processing electronic applications for admissions to institutions, where the application processing includes transmitting over a computer network an application to an applicant to complete, receiving over the computer network the application from the applicant, automatically generating a request bearing a machine readable code and human readable information, the human readable information specifying a document to be retrieved and associated with the electronic application form, automatically transmitting the request to a third party via facsimile, receiving from the third party via facsimile the previously

generated and transmitted request and the requested document, and automatically reading the machine readable code on the request in order to associate the document with previously received application.

Wang's invention describes a system that uses or adds machine-readable information to a document so that the document may be automatically processed, however, Wang requires manual intervention to process documents that do not already include preprinted machine-readable identification (Wang's invention manually adds the machine-readable code to documents without a machine readable code for processing). The claimed invention allows processing of documents that do not include machine-readable identification without human intervention by using the machine-readable code from the request to facilitate the document processing. Tamaro, likewise, fails to disclose this feature.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (703) 305-4672 (after 10/12/2004 use (571) 272-4131). The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (703) 308-5465 (after 10/12/2004 use (571) 272-4124). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 (after 10/12/2004 use (571) 272-2100).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory J. Vaughn
August 11, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Hong", with a large checkmark to its right.

STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER